Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AS-01 IO-13 /069 W
----------055887 231547Z /43
R 231020Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3537
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13766

FOL TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKHLA DATED JUNE 23, 1977
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 0125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, TH, MY
SUBJECT: NEXT THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER OPERATION

1. MAJ. GEN YUTHASAK KLONGTRUATROKE, COMMANDER FIFTH DIVISION TOLD CONSUL JUNE 21 THAT PLANNING FOR THIRD THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER OPERATION IS REACHING FINAL STAGES AND OPERATION COULD POSSIBLY BEGIN IN EARLY JULY. MALAYSIAN GEN DATUK MAHMOOD SULAIMAN, OVERALL COMMANDER OF MALAYSIAN FORCES PARTICIPATING IN JOINT OPERATION, SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN HAT YAI JUNE 22 FOR FINAL PLANNING SESSIONS. HE IS TO DEPART FOR MALAYSIA JUNE 26.

2. THIS RATHER WELL ADVERTISED THIRD OPERATION IS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE BETONG SALIENT OF YALA PROVINCE FROM WHICH COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA ASSAULT UNITS HAVE CONTINUED TO CROSS INTO MALAYSIA FOR SOME TIME. ON THE THAI SIDE FIFTH DIVISION AND BORDER PATROL TROOPS WILL REPORTEDLY BE REINFORCED BY ELEMENTS OF THE NINTH DIVISION
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FROM KANCHANABURI.

3. DURING SAME CONVERSATION, GEN. YUTHASAK DENIED ALLEGATION IN THE PRESS LAST WEEK THAT THAI AND MALAYSIAN BORDER COMMITTEES HAD HEATED ARGUMENTS OVER QUESTION OF COMBINED OPERATIONS AGAINST THE MUSLIM SEPARATISTS. YUTHASAK WHO WAS QUOTED BY REUTERS AS HAVING CONFIRMED THE DISAGREEMENTS SAID IN FACT THE SEPARATIST QUESTION

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NEVER CAME UP DURING THE MEETING. HE SPECULATED THAT PRESS MAY HAVE BEEN FED FALSE STORIES BY SEPARATIST AGENTS THEMSELVES WHO WERE TRYING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSE.

4. IF THERE WERE ANY DISAGREEMENTS AT REGIONAL BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING IN PENANG BOTH SIDES NOW SEEM TO BE EMPHASIZING THE COOPERATION AND HARMONY WHICH THEY CLEARLY HOPE WILL STAND THEM IN GOOD STEAD AS THEY MOVE INTO BETONG IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
HAMILTON

UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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